

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 14th, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to thank you for your leadership in working to deliver the For The People Agenda to all Americans. Under your leadership, we passed several pieces of critical legislation to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic and to revitalize our economy. While these are significant steps forward, we still have more to achieve in accomplishing your vision for the next generation. As the leaders of the House Democratic Caucuses urged in a joint statement on March 1, we must take action on policies you have proposed to support American families and address the threat of climate change. The more than \$555 billion in climate investments in the House-passed Build Back Better Act can serve as the building block to restart negotiations.

When it comes to addressing the crisis of our rapidly warming planet, the February 28th, 2022 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change forcefully concluded that time is running out: “Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation,” the world’s scientists wrote, “will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all.” Leading the world in limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will require a monumental effort, and the climate components of Build Back Better are an indispensable foundation.

Throughout 2021, we bore witness to the devastating impacts of the climate crisis, further illustrating why transformational action cannot wait. Inaction now will mean irreversible consequences for our future generations. Given the widespread agreement in the U.S. Senate for House passed climate provisions, we have an opportunity to recommence negotiations with climate serving as a key starting point.

During your State of the Union address, you called for decisive action on clean energy and climate change. We were encouraged to hear you discuss how families will save an average of \$500 per year on their energy costs through investments and tax credits. With your support, urging Congressional leaders to move forward with these climate provisions would mark the largest climate investment in our nation's history, setting the United States on course to meet our 50-52% greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets by 2030, while creating millions of good paying union jobs, reducing energy costs for consumers, advancing environmental justice, investing in climate resilient housing and community infrastructure, and strengthening our economy.

In just the past four years, record setting wildfires, superstorms, and heat waves have already cost our country tens of billions of dollars more in damages. Damages have also included the loss of homes and the displacement of families across the country—the effects of which disproportionately impact communities of color. It is clear that climate change is a threat multiplier to our economy. Responding now will protect American families and businesses against the most devastating financial impacts. But the longer we wait, the more expensive it will be to transition at the speed required, and we will have incurred billions in damages and harm to our communities, infrastructure, environment, and public health and safety along the way.

We are committed to working with you to realize the totality of the Building a Better America vision. Restarting negotiations with climate action is a clear path forward to deliver tangible results to the American people. Your leadership in these negotiations will ensure that we can pass on a safe, healthy, and vibrant society and planet to our children.

Sincerely,

A black ink signature of Sean Casten, featuring a stylized 'S' and 'C' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Jamaal Bowman, featuring a stylized 'J' and 'B' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Nikema Williams, featuring a stylized 'N' and 'W' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

Cori Bush
Member of Congress

Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress

Mark Levin
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Henry C. “Hank” Johnson Jr
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Ted Lieu
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Marie Newman
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

Haley Stevens
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress